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DANGER OF WAR-PRINCIPLES.

MEN plead for war as a security against injury ; but it multiplies a hundred-fold the evils it would prevent or redress. Its spirit and principles, wherever prevalent, are fatal alike to individual and national safety. The condition of society in our Southern and South-Western States, fearfully confirms the truth of this remark. Not a week, probably not a day, passes there, without some bloody affray ; and, though few of these ever reach the public ear, yet scarce a newspaper comes from those quarters without reporting such rencontres as seldom disgrace New England. This difference is easily explained. They adopt the war-practice of wearing deadly weapons, while we go entirely unarmed, and consequently never dream of employing a dagger or pistol as a vent to our passions.

Best way to prevent bloodshed.—The maxim is almost universal, *the best way to keep peace, is to be well prepared for war* ; a maxim that has occasioned fifty wars where it has prevented one ; a maxim that is now costing Christendom nearly *a thousand millions of dollars* every year for the support of her enormous fleets and armies, even in a time of profound peace ; a maxim that outrages common sense, and contradicts the testimony of general experience in analogous cases.

Consult the dictates of experience and common sense. Women do not wear deadly weapons ; but are they more exposed to mortal assaults than men ? Ministers of the gospel never go armed ; are they more frequently involved in bloody affrays than men who carry dirks, and pistols, and bowie-knives ? In New England we are forbidden by law, and disinclined by custom, to wear deadly weapons ; and is there more bloodshed here than in those parts of our country where every man goes armed for mortal combat ? Every body would give the same answer to such questions ; yet few presume to doubt the wisdom of the war-maxim, *in peace prepare for war* ; and the man who should contradict this dogma, and teach the dictates of Christianity and common sense on the subject, would be denounced as a fanatic, or a traitor to his country.

Peace Legislation.—But we are glad to see some of our western and southern legislators returning to their senses on this subject, and taking strong measures to prevent this preparation for war among individuals in society ; and most earnestly do we long for the day when all the rulers in Christendom will act on the same principle in the intercourse of nations.

The Legislature of Kentucky have taken measures to suppress

the custom, so common at the South and West, of carrying concealed about the person deadly weapons, such as pistols, dirks and knives. They have passed an act forbidding any person to vend such articles without a license, for which two hundred dollars are demanded; requiring the owner of such articles to give in the same as taxable property; and making any one who wears such weapons, liable to a fine not exceeding *one thousand dollars*, nor less than *fifty*.

The Legislature of Tennessee, at its last session, passed a law prohibiting the use of bowie-knives. The act provides that 'if any person shall sell, give away, or dispose of in any manner, a bowie-knife within the State, he shall be punished by a fine of not less than *one hundred dollars*, nor more than *five hundred*; that if any one shall wear the weapon about his person, he shall be fined from *two hundred to five hundred dollars*; that if any one shall draw a knife with intent to use it against another, he shall be imprisoned in the penitentiary not less than three, nor more than five years; and that if a person shall be cut or stabbed with such knife, whether death ensue or not, the perpetrator shall be imprisoned in the penitentiary not less than three, nor more than fifteen years.'

Virginia and some of the other States at the South, are coming to adopt similar measures for the prevention of bloodshed with which those sections of our country are so deeply stained. But all such legislation is in the very teeth of the war-maxim handed down to us from Washington himself, and acted upon by every nation in Christendom from time immemorial. The principle which disarms an individual, ought to disarm nations; and such an application of it would soon put an end to war for ever.

DOCUMENTS ON A CONGRESS OF NATIONS.

1. *Memorials to the Congress of the United States on a Congress of Nations.*
2. *Mr. Legare's Report on the Memorials in respect to the Arbitrament of national disputes.*
3. *First Annual Report of the New York Peace Society.*

WE include these documents under one notice, because they all refer to the same general subject, and are interlinked with each other as cause and effect. The New York Peace Society, founded